

February 7, 1975

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose that rule change. I believe that any individual in here has the procedural right to offer a motion for an adjournment. If we don't like it we can override that. If it's only in the hands of the speaker, I agree with Senator Chambers, we have nothing to overrule.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I would like unanimous consent to offer a friendly amendment. After the word "his" add "or her".

PRESIDENT: Is there unanimous consent to that amendment? There better be. To add "or her", "his or her". Is there any discussion on the amendment? Machine vote. The amendment is to insert the words "or her". Record your vote. Record the vote.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 1 nay.

PRESIDENT: The amendment passes. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, the idea behind this rule change is very simple so that if we're on an important subject, debate is going, we're at ten minutes to twelve or five minutes to twelve and it looks like it's going to take an extra 20 minutes, that the debate is not disrupted. The continuity is not destroyed by somebody who thinks they're going to lose the matter repeatedly bringing up the motion to adjourn. It has happened here. We've all seen it. About carrying on till 1:30 to 2:30, whatever, all it would take would be a motion suspend the rules and to adjourn. So it's going to take another five votes but it isn't a serious problem. The primary responsibility then on the adjournment would be put upon the speaker. His duty, of course, is to make sure that both parties have an equal opportunity.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach. I should advise you there is a motion to adjourn on the Chair . . . at the Clerk's desk. Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Do I have the opportunity for closing now? Is this the status?

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers light went on again. Then we'll close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll be very brief I promise. Remember, once a motion is up to adjourn, a majority of those voting can adjourn. But if the bodies deliberations went too far, there may not be 30 people here to vote to suspend the rules. Therefore, you could not give a motion to adjourn. In that case what would happen? The body would not be adjourned.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch. Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think that we've respected the right of the Chairman to submit the motion to adjourn. We've been doing this without putting it in the rules since the session started. I still have some reservations because if I could save a piece of legislation that I was interested in, or perhaps defeat one by making a motion to adjourn at an appropriate time, I think